

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for processing mutual fund order messages, including purchase and redemption transactions, comprising the steps of:

receiving order messages at a server from at least one of a plurality of servers at designated Exchanges;

reformatting the order messages at the server; and

transmitting the order messages from the server to at least one of a plurality of servers at Fund/Securities Clearing Agents for confirmation, clearing and settlement.
2. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting further comprises the step of forwarding the order messages from the server to at least one of servers of at least one of the individual Funds and Transfer Agents for processing and confirmation.
3. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 2, wherein the step of forwarding comprises forwarding said order messages from the server, in single batch and multi-batch, throughout the day.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claims 2 or 3, wherein the step of forwarding comprises forwarding said order messages from the server, in single batch and multi-batch, at the end of the day.
5. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving confirmation messages at the server from at least one of said servers at the Funds/Securities Clearing Agents.
6. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 5, wherein said confirmation messages are received at the server periodically and at the end of the day.
7. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 5, further comprising the step of reformatting the confirmation messages at the server and transmitting said confirmation messages from the server to servers at at least one of a plurality of ordering Member Firms.
8. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 7, wherein the step of transmitting said confirmation messages further comprises the step of transmitting said confirmation messages from the server, in single batch and multi-batch, throughout the day.
9. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claims 7 or 8, wherein the step of transmitting said confirmation messages further comprises the step of delaying the

transmission of said confirmation messages from the server, in single batch and multi-batch, until the end of the day.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the step of clearing and settlement of order messages through servers at at least one of said Fund/Securities Clearing Agents and servers at at least one of a plurality of Depositories using at least one Fund/Securities Clearing Agent money settlement system.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the step of paying at least one of cash dividends and reinvested dividends to at least one of a Member Firm's Depository Account and a Fund/Securities Clearing Agent's Account.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 2, further comprising the step of receiving the order messages at a the server for tabulation.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 12, further comprising the step of storing the order messages in a database.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 13, further comprising the step of storing information relating to said order messages in the database by date, Member Firms and funds, including gross purchase and redemption and historical orders, dividends, and net fund positions.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 13, further comprising the step of receiving dividend information at the server for tabulation of order message information, comprising correct calculation of each fund's NAV, calculation of fund total returns over different time periods and fund assets held at each Member Firm.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of storing NAV and total return information in the database including dividends and fund assets held at each Member Firm at different points in time.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of sorting orders, performing calculations relating to orders at the server including the steps of tabulating orders into records and generating reports.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for processing mutual fund order messages, including purchase and redemption and buy and sell transactions, comprising the steps of

receiving order messages at a first server of an Exchange from a second server at at least one Member Firm;

matching and executing order messages at the first server; and

transmitting the matched and executed order messages from the first sever to servers at at least one of a plurality of ordering Member Firms for confirmation and to servers at at least one of a plurality of Funds/Securities Clearing Agents for clearing and settlement.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 18, wherein the step of transmitting comprises the step of forwarding said order messages from the first server, in single batch and multi-batch, throughout the day.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 18, wherein the step of transmitting comprises the step of forwarding said order messages from the first server, in single batch and multi-batch, at the end of the day.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 18, further comprising the step of transmitting the matched and executed order messages from the first server to a third server for tabulation and processing.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 21, further comprising the step of storing the matched and executed order messages in a database.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 22, further comprising the step of storing information relating to said matched and executed order messages by date,

Member Firms and funds, including gross purchase and redemption and historical orders, dividends, and net fund positions in the database.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 23, further comprising the step of receiving dividend information at the third server for tabulation of order message information, comprising correct calculation of each fund's NAV, calculation of fund total returns over different time periods and fund assets held at each Member Firm.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of storing NAV and total return information including dividends and fund assets held at each Member Firm at different points in time the database.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 25, further comprising the steps of sorting orders, performing calculations relating to orders including tabulating orders into records and generating reports in the third sever.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 18, wherein the step of transmitting the matched and executed order messages from the first server to the servers of the Funds/Securities Clearing Agents further includes the step of transmitting matched and executed order messages from the first server to servers of at least one of a plurality of Depositories.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 27, further comprising the step of settlement of said matched and executed orders, including Depository eligible book-entry orders, through servers at at least one of the Fund/Securities Clearing Agents using at least one Fund/Securities Clearing Agent's continuous, daily and other money settlement system.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 28, further comprising the step of paying at least one of cash dividends and reinvested dividends to at least one of a Member Firm's Depository Account and a Fund/Securities Clearing Agent's Account.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented system for processing mutual fund order messages, including purchase and redemption and buy and sell transactions, comprising a first server for receiving order messages from servers at at least one of a plurality of designated Exchanges, reformatting the order messages at the first server and transmitting the order messages to servers at at least one of a plurality of Fund/Securities Clearing Agents for confirmation, clearing and settlement.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein servers at at least one of the Fund/Clearing Agents forwards the order messages to servers at at least one of individual Funds and Transfer Agents for processing and confirmation.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein said first server transmits said order messages, in single batch and multi-batch, throughout the day.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein said first server transmits said order messages, in single batch and multi-batch, at the end of the day.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein said first server receives confirmation messages from servers at at least one of said Fund/Clearing Agents.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 34, wherein the confirmation messages are received at said first server periodically and at the end of the day.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 34, wherein the first server reformats the confirmation messages and transmits the confirmation messages to servers at at least one of a plurality of ordering Member Firms.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 36, wherein said first server transmits the confirmation messages to servers at at least one of the Member Firms, in single-batch and multi-batch, throughout the day.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 36, wherein said first server delays the transmission of said confirmation messages to servers at at least one of the Member Firms, until the end of the day.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein servers at at least one of said Fund/Securities Clearing Agents and servers at at least one of said Depositories use at least one of said Fund/Securities Clearing Agent's money settlement systems to settle orders included in said order messages.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein at least one of the Fund/Transfers Agents pays at least one of cash dividends and reinvested dividends to at least one of a Member Firm's Depository Account and a Fund/Securities Clearing Agent Account.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein said first server tabulates said order messages.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein the first server further comprises a database for storing said order messages.

43. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 42, wherein said database stores information relating to said order messages by date, Member Firms and funds, including gross purchase and redemption and historical orders, dividends, and net fund positions.

44. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 42, wherein said first server receives dividend information from servers at at least one of the Fund/Transfer Agents for

tabulation of order message information, comprising correct calculation of each fund's NAV, calculation of fund total returns over different time periods and fund assets held at each Member Firm.

45. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 44, wherein said database stores NAV and total return information including dividends and fund assets held at each Member Firm at different points in time.